

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 571

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE PFOR XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: POLICY: INFORMATION - STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON
WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: MOST WESTERN DELEGATIONS WANT A SOLID POSITIVELY WORDED TEXT ON THIS TOPIC. SOVIETS FEEL THEY HAVE MADE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ALREADY AND HAVE DUG IN DEEPLY ON MAJOR POINTS THAT REMAIN AT ISSUE. SWISS HAVE COMPLICATED ALLIED EFFORTS BY INTRODUCING A TEXT MUCH WEAKER THAN THAT FROM WHICH THE NATO DELS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING. THIS MESSAGE DESCRIBES STATE OF PLAY AND COURSE U.S. DEL INTENDS TO FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. UK AND FRG, REPRESENTING THE NATO GROUP, HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATING THIS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE SOVIETS, REPORTING BACK FREQUENTLY TO THE NATO BASKET III CAUCUS. HOWEVER, THE SWISS, UNEXPECTEDLY AND WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH NATO DELEGATIONS, HAVE OFFICIALLY TABLED A TEXT SUBSTANTIALLY WEAKER THAN THAT THE ALLIES HAVE BEEN WORKING FROM. THE SOVIETS MAY NOW ATTEMPT TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF DISCUSSIONS FROM THE PRIVATE, TRILATERAL MEETINGS TO THE FULL INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE AND ATTEMPT TO MAKE THE SWISS TEXT THE BASIS OF FURTHER DRAFTING.

3. SOVIETS HAVE SO FAR AGREED TO:

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(A) LANGUAGE GIVING JOURNALISTS RIGHT TO IMPORT TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT WITHOUT RESTRICTION;

(B) LANGUAGE ENABLING JOURNALISTS "TO TRANSMIT FULLY AND SPEEDILY" THE RESULTS OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY;

(C) MULTIPLE ENTRY AND EXIT VISA TO PERMANENTLY ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS (AGREED IN PRINCIPLE; PRECISE LANGUAGE NOT YET DEVELOPED).

4. THE REMAINING MAJOR ISSUES ARE:

(A) LANGUAGE THAT WOULD COMMIT PARTICIPANT STATES TO "DEAL POSITIVELY" WITH JOURNALISTS' REQUESTS FOR VISAS, ETC.;

(B) FACILITATION OF JOURNALISTS' ACCESS TO OFFICIALS AND TO PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS;

(C) GREATER FREEDOM OF TRAVEL FOR JOURNALISTS WITHIN PARTICIPATING STATES;

(D) NONLIABILITY OF JOURNALISTS TO EXPULSION FOR REASONS ARISING OUT OF THEIR LEGITIMATE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY;

(E) EXTENSION OF ALL OF THESE PRIVILEGES TO TECHNICAL STAFF AS WELL AS TO FULLY ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS.

5. FULL TEXT OF WORKING PAPER FROM WHICH WESTERN SIDE IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. IT EVOLVED FROM MORE REALISTIC TEXT DEVELOPED AMONG NATO ALLIES LAST OCTOBER (GENEVA 6561). SWISS PROPOSAL TABLED DEC 19 IS SIGNIFICANTLY WEAKER THAN NATO PAPER ON ALL OF THE REMAINING OUTSTANDING ISSUES. FULL TEXT ALSO TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

6. WE REGARD THIS AS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND PLAN, UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, TO SUPPORT ALLIED EFFORTS TO GET A GOOD TEXT, EVEN AT THE COST OF ANNOYING THE SOVIETS SOMEWHAT. THIS ISSUE IS PRESENTLY UNDER VERY ACTIVE NEGOTIATION, AND IF DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO PURSUE A DIFFERENT COURSE WE SHOULD BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DALE
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